

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 OTTAWA 02584 311755Z

66

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /148 W

----- 126496

R 311716Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2005

UNCLAS OTTAWA 2584

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CA, US

SUBJECT: CANADIAN REACTION TO US MEASURES IN ME CRISIS

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF FIRST NEWSPAPER ARTICLE COMING TO EMBASSY'S ATTENTION ON CANADIAN REACTION TO US MILITARY ALERT AND OTHER ME MEASURES TAKEN LAST WEEK. ARTICLE BY JOHN BEST IN TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL OF OCTOBER 31, PAGE 9. RELEVANT COLUMN BY CHARLES LYNCH TO FOLLOW SEPTEL.

BEGIN QUOTE: HEADLINES - NATO ALLIES NOT ADVISED OF MILITARY ALERT. IGNORED BY U.S. DURING MOVES ON MIDEAST CEASEFIRE, OTTAWA OFFICIALS MIFFED.

TEXT - CANADIAN OFFICIALS ARE UNHAPPY OVER THE LACK OF U.S. CONSULTATION ON VARIOUS MOVES BY WASHINGTON-POLITICAL AS WELL AS MILITARY-CONNECTED WITH THE MIDDLE EAST CEASEFIRE.

THOUGH RELUCTANT TO CONDEMN WASHINGTON OPENLY, OTTAWA AUTHORITIES LEAVE NO DOUBT THAT IN THEIR VIEW THE UNITED STATES COULD HAVE KEPT NATO ALLIES MUCH BETTER INFORMED.

THE MISGIVINGS HERE FOCUS BOTH ON THE WORLD-WIDE MILITARY ALERT PROCLAIMED FOR U.S. FORCES BY PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON LAST WEEK, AND THE SECRET SUPERPOWER DIPLOMACY THAT

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 OTTAWA 02584 311755Z

LED UP TO THE ORIGINAL ARAB-ISRAELI TRUCE ON OCTOBER 22.

HOWEVER, THEY APPEAR STRONGER IN RELATION TO THE ALERT
THAN IN RELATION TO THE WHEELING AND DEALING BETWEEN
WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW.

THE FEELINGS HERE ARE SIMILAR TO, THOUGH PERHAPS NOT SO
STRONG AS, ANNOYANCE REPORTED TO BE WIDESPREAD IN EUROPE OVER
THE WAY THAT WASHINGTON HANDLED ITS VARIOUS PEACE MOVES.

HOWEVER, IN AT LEAST ONE RESPECT CANADA'S POSITION APPEAR-
ED MARKEDLY DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF EUROPE. OFFICFPLS SAID
THAT TO THEIR KNOWLEDGE, THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFSETTING CRITICISM
OF CANADA BY THE UNITED STATES.

THE AMERICANS HAVE COMPLAINED THAT EUROPEAN MEMBERS OF
NATO REFUSED TO COOPERATE IN U.S. FERRYING OPERATIONS FOR RE-
SUPPLYING ISRAEL WITH WEAPONS.

THEY HAVE ALSO COMPLAINED OF LACK OF EUROPEAN SUPPORT
FOR THE ALERT PROCLAIMED AFTER RUSSIA THREATENED TO SEND TROOPS
TO HELP SUPERVISE THE CEASEFIRE.

U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ROBERT MCCLOSKEY EARLIER
CRITICIZED THE ALLIES FOR WITHHOLDING THE KIND OF SUPPORT
WASHINGTON WOULD HAVE LIKED TO RECEIVE DURING THE ALERT PERIOD--
AND, IN THE CASE OF SOME, OF SEEKING TO DETACH THEMSELVES
FROM U.S. MILITARY AID FOR ISRAEL.

MR. NIXON NOTED THAT 'EUROPE, WHICH GETS 80 PER CENT
OF ITS OIL FROM THE MIDEAST, WOULD HAVE FROZEN TO DEATH
THIS WINTER UNLESS THERE HAD BEEN A SETTLEMENT.'

THOUGH CANADA HAS REMAINED OUTSIDE THE LINE OF FIRE BE-
TWEEN WASHINGTON AND EUROPEAN CAPITALS, OFFICIALS HERE ARE
SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE NEED FOR THE ALERT.

'NOBODY HERE KNOWS ANY BETTER THAN ANYBODY ANYWHERE
ELSE WHAT THAT ALERT WAS ALL ABOUT,' SAID ONE OFFICIAL, THOUGH
HE ADDED THAT CANADA HAD BEEN GIVEN THE IMPRESSION THAT IT WAS
LOW-KEY, 'A STEP REQUIRED IN AMERICAN PRACTICE TO GET
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 OTTAWA 02584 311755Z

SOLDIERS ON STANDBY.'

CANADA NEVER WAS INFORMED OF THE ALERT IN A FORMAL,
GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT WAY. THE INFORMATION WAS SIMPLY PASSED
ALONG TO CANADIAN OFFICIALS AT NORAD HEADQUARTERS IN COLORADO
SPINGS THE DAY IT WAS PUT INTO EFFECT.

ASKED WHETHER CANADA WAS SATISFIED WITH THE WAY IT WAS

TREATED AT THE TIME OF THE ALERT, AN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN WOULD NOT ANSWER DIRECTLY. BUT HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT IN CANADA'S JUDGMENT THERE WAS SOME JUSTIFICATION FOR CHAGRIN.

WHILE THE MIDDLE EAST DOES NOT COME WITHIN NATO'S SPHERE OF JURISDICTION, HE SAID, DEVELOPMENTS THERE ARE 'VERY RELEVANT' TO THE SECURITY CONCERNS OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE.

THERE WAS THEREFORE GROUND TO ARGUE THAT ADVANCE CONSULTATION SHOULD HAVE TAKEN PLACE. TO THAT EXTENT, ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE FELT THEY HAD CAUSE FOR COMPLAINT.

THE SPOKESMAN EMPHASIZED THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO CONSULT ITS ALLIES ON A PURELY 'NATIONAL' ALERT. BUT IT HAD THE POTENTIAL OF BECOMING SOMETHING MORE THAN THAT.

PRESSED FOR A STATEMENT AS TO WHETHER IN THAT CASE CANADA DIDN'T FEEL IT HAD BEEN LET DOWN BY WASHINGTON, THE SPOKESMAN SIDESTEPPED.

'IF PEOPLE HAD THEIR DRUTHERS I SUPPOSE WE WOULD WANT TO BE CONSULTED ON EVERYTHING,' HE SAID.

ANOTHER OFFICIAL APPEARED TO SHOW SYMPATHY WITH THE EUROPEAN POSITION, SAYING SOME OF THE REASONS FOR EUROPEAN CRITICISM OF THE UNITED STATES WERE 'RATHER EVIDENT.'

'SOME OF THE EUROPEAN NATIONS CONSIDERED THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS NOT PLAYING A WESTERN ROLE BUT PURELY A NATIONAL ROLE,' HE ADDED. END QUOTE.

SCHMIDT
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 OTTAWA 02584 311755Z

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X

Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994

Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: MOBILIZATION, ARMISTICE, PRESS COMMENTS, ARMS

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE

Draft Date: 31 OCT 1973

Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960

Decaption Note:

Disposition Action: n/a

Disposition Approved on Date:

Disposition Authority: n/a

Disposition Case Number: n/a

Disposition Comment:

Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960

Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a

Disposition Reason:

Disposition Remarks:

Document Number: 1973OTTAWA02584

Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a

Executive Order: N/A

Errors: N/A

Film Number: n/a

From: OTTAWA

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973102/aaaaabfh.tel

Line Count: 154

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE

Office: ACTION EUR

Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Original Handling Restrictions: n/a

Original Previous Classification: n/a

Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 3

Previous Channel Indicators:

Previous Classification: n/a

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED

Review Authority: kellerpr

Review Comment: n/a

Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 28 AUG 2001

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a

Review History: RELEASED <28-Aug-2001 by phillir0>; APPROVED <02-Jan-2002 by kellerpr>

Review Markings:

Declassified/Released

US Department of State

EO Systematic Review

30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:

Review Referrals: n/a

Review Release Date: n/a

Review Release Event: n/a

Review Transfer Date:

Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN

Status: NATIVE

Subject: CANADIAN REACTION TO US MEASURES IN ME CRISIS FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF FIRST NEWSPAPER ARTICLE COMING TO

TAGS: PINT, CA, US, XX, XF

To: STATE

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005